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In response to the Office Action mailed on October 1, 2001, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-7 without prejudice.

Please add new claims 13-19, as follows:

--13. A method for allocating a resource among subscribers in a network computer server system having a first stage and a second stage, the method comprising the steps of:

- determining an available capacity in the second stage;
- queuing arriving subscribers bidding for an allocation of the resource in the first stage;
- periodically admitting at least a portion of the arriving subscribers into the second stage based on respective bid amounts and second stage resource availability;
- determining a spot price of the resource based on at least one arrival subscriber not admitted;
- offering admitted subscribers a reservation, having a reservation fee, to secure a future allocation of the resource at a given bid price, subscribers accepting the reservation fee being admitted as reserved subscribers, those rejecting the reservation fee being admitted as non-reserved subscribers;
- displacing non-reserved subscribers whose bid prices are below the spot price; and
- activating a reservation of a reserved subscriber whose bid price is below the spot price.--

2 --14. The method for allocating a resource among subscribers in a network computer server system as defined by Claim 13, wherein the reservation fee is calculated based on the bid price and a requested duration of the reservation.--

--15. The method for allocating a resource among subscribers in a network computer server system as defined by Claim 14, wherein the reservation fee is inversely

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proportional to the bid price and directly proportional to the requested duration of the reservation.--

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--16. The method for allocating a resource among subscribers in a network computer server system as defined by Claim 14, wherein after a reservation is activated, the subscriber is displaced upon expiration of the duration of the reservation.--

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cont
--17. The method for allocating a resource among subscribers in a network computer server system as defined by Claim 13, wherein the spot price of the resource is the highest bid price of the at least one arrival subscriber not admitted.--

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--18. The method for allocating a resource among subscribers in a network computer server system as defined by Claim 13, wherein the availability of the resource in the second stage is defined as the total quantity of the resource in the second stage less a reserved quantity of the resource in the second stage.--

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--19. The method for allocating a resource among subscribers in a network computer server system as defined by Claim 13, wherein the resource is communication lines in a computer network access system and where the first and second stage each contain a discrete number of communications lines.--